

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 AGRE-00 AID-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5266

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 04240

USEEC

PARIS ALSO FOR OECD

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, UN, EEC, ETRD, EFIN

SUBJECT: EC POSITION ON LDC DEBT RELIEF FOR UNCTAD TDB

MINISTERIAL AND OTHER NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES

REF: (A) STATE 48583, (B) BONN 3682, (C) BRUSSELS 3937

1. MEMBER STATE AND EC SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS INFORMED

THE MISSION THAT AT THE COREPER MEETING OF MARCH 2

DANISH AMBASSADOR RIBERHOLDT REPORTED ON THE OUTCOME OF

THE EC FEBRUARY 27 DEMARCHE TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY KATZ

IN WASHINGTON REGARDING SUBMISSION OF THE US/EC FEATURES

PAPER AT THE TDB MINISTERIAL MEETING IN GENEVA STARTING

MARCH 6. RIBERHOLDT REPORTED THAT KATZ HAD CONVEYED THE

IMPRESSION THAT THE US WOULD AGREE TO JOIN THE EC IN

TABLING THE US/EC PAPER JOINTLY AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME

IN THE COURSE OF THE TDB MEETING. THE MEMBER STATES

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WELCOMED THE DEVELOPMENT AND AUTHORIZED THEIR REPRE-

SENTATIVES AND THOSE OF THE COMMISSION TO DECIDE IN

GENEVA--IN COORDINATION WITH THE US AND OTHER GROUP-B

COUNTRIES--AS TO WHEN THE PAPER SHOULD BE SUBMITTED AND

TO MAKE APPROPRIATE CHANGES TO THE PAPER AS LONG AS SUCH

CHANGES DO NOT DEPART SUBSTANTIALLY FROM THE APPROVED

ORIGINAL.

2. THERE WAS ALSO A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF REPORTS THAT CERTAIN COUNTRIES (SUCH AS THE UK, FRG AND THE US) WERE CONSIDERING POSSIBLE INITIATIVES REGARDING RETROACTIVE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT OF TERMS FOR DEBTS OF SOME DEVELOPING STATES. WHILE THE DISCUSSION WAS INCONCLUSIVE, OUR SOURCES INDICATE THAT IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT, WHILE MEMBER STATES WOULD BE FREE TO EXPLORE IDEAS ON THIS SUBJECT WITH OTHER GROUP-B COUNTRIES IN GENEVA, NO INITIATIVES SHOULD BE TAKEN WITH THE G-77 WITHOUT PRIOR AGREEMENT AMONG THE MEMBER STATES; THIS COULD BE REACHED IN GENEVA, OR BRUSSELS IF NECESSARY. OUR COMMISSION SOURCES INFORM US THAT EC COMMISSIONER CHEYSSON IS GOING TO PRESS THE MEMBER STATES AT THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 7 FOR A MORE THOROUGH DISCUSSION OF THEIR VIEWS ON RETROACTIVE IMPROVEMENT OF LDC DEBT TERMS TO STRESS THE NEED FOR A COORDINATED POSITION BY CREDITORS.

3. OTHER NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES WHICH WERE CONSIDERED BY COREPER ON MARCH 2 INCLUDED THE COMMON FUND. IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED IT WAS TOO EARLY TO GET FURTHER INTO THE SUBSTANCE OF A FUND UNTIL THERE WERE CLEARER INDICATIONS AS TO THE POSSIBILITY OF RESUMING NEGOTIATIONS. A BRITISH PERMDEL OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE UK IS NOW REASSURED THAT SOUNDINGS OF G-77 REPRESENTATIVES ON CONFIDENTIAL

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RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATION WILL BE TAKEN IN THE NORMAL COURSE OF BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL CONTACTS AND NOT BE ACTIVELY PURSUED. FOR EXAMPLE, WHILE COREPER AGREED TO REQUEST BY EC'S LOME CONVENTION ASSOCIATES FOR INFORMAL EXCHANGE ON NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES ON MARGIN OF MARCH 13-14 EC/ACP MINISTERIAL, COREPER IS TO REVIEW SUBSTANCE OF EC PRESENTATION ON MARCH 9.

4. COREPER ALSO AGREED ON MARCH 2 TO INCLUDE THE UN OVERVIEW MECHANISM ON THE AGENDA FOR THE EC COUNCIL OF MARCH 7 (REF C). THIS IS TO CONSIST OF A REPORT BY THE DANISH PRESIDENCY ON THE FIRST MEETING OF THE UN OVERVIEW COMMITTEE. THE COUNCIL IS EXPECTED TO CONFIRM A COREPER RECOMMENDATION THAT CONTRIBUTIONS TO TOPICS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE OVERVIEW COMMITTEE WILL BE SUBMITTED BY THE PRESIDENCY COUNTRY FOR THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE AND NOT BY THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATES. COREPER IS TO REACH A DECISION ON MARCH 9 ON ACTUAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE MAY MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW COMMITTEE ACCORDING TO PERMDEL SOURCES.

5. MISSION OFFICER INFORMED DEPUTY-DIRECTOR GENERAL

DURIEUX OF THE RESULTS OF THE VISIT OF UNCTAD SECRETARY
GENERAL COREA TO WASHINGTON AS INSTRUCTED BY REF A.
DURIEUX SAID HE WOULD BE HEADING THE COMMISSION DELEGA-
TION TO THE UNCTAD TDB NEXT WEEK, BUT THAT COMMISSIONER
CHEYSSON WOULD ARRIVE THE EVENING OF MARCH 9 FOR A
MEETING THE FOLLOWING MORNING OF THE BRANDT NORTH/SOUTH
COMMISSION AND FOR THE SMALL GROUP MEETING WITH COREA
AND OTHER STATES ON MARCH 11. DURIEUX SAID THAT FIVE
MEMBER STATES (BELGIUM, DENMARK, UK, LUXEMBOURG AND THE
NETHERLANDS) WOULD BE REPRESENTED AT THE MINISTERIAL
LEVEL AT THE TDB MEETING. HINTON

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